

January 25, 1954

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I am enclosing a catalogue of items for sale and the reason I am doing so is because of a Faden map of Ste. Augustine.

My wife and I are talking about going to Sarasota this spring and if we start wandering about Florida I will certainly come in to see you.

A friend of mine is a very serious shell collector in St. Louis. His name is George C. Willson, Boatmen's Bank Building, St. Louis, Missouri. He is trying to acquire some rather scarce shells that are found around Cadiz, Spain, and I am wondering if you have any suggestions for him.

In your acquisition of Virginia notes, I assume you did not acquire a \$100 note stamped "Faith of the State Pledged" in either red or blue. I believe these items can be scratched off the list as non-existent.

In checking over my State issues of the Southern States I find that the only notes I am missing are the \$500 Florida of 1865, the \$4 Georgia of January 1, 1863, the \$3 ceres of Louisiana, the existence of which I doubt, a \$10 Mississippi "Cotton Pledged" in drab, \$50 Mississippi August 12, 1864, \$100 Texas with lighthouse and ships. Do you have any of these items as it would be nice to be able to eliminate some as being non-existent.

Believe it or not, I am still working on my article on Machin's Mill and have run into so many side issues that I have pestered almost everybody in the United States for pictures of their coins.

Page 2
Mr. Harley Freeman

January 25, 1954

I have finally straightened out all of the New York issues and I think I will call upon you to examine the text when I get it finished so that you might make any suggestions or corrections which occur to you.

My very kindest wishes and hoping we can meet soon again,

Sincerely,

ERIC F. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Feb. 14, 1931.

Dear Eric:

Thanks a lot for advising me of the Fellen map. I wrote to Stevens at once, got the map on approval and also some additional lists with other Fla. maps. These too I ordered but evidently too late for they had been sold. I especially wanted the Romans map of 1776. However I kept the Fellen map which is quite interesting. They had some other choice items but the prices take one's breath away.

Sorry, but the only note of those you list, which I happen to have is the \$500 Florida of 1865. I do not go in for the other southern states tho I have a few. My main interest is in odd denominations, notes which look interesting or different, odd notes of exchange, etc. Pickoff has a \$2.00 on Independence, Mo. recently, rather an interesting item. I suppose you already have one. Gibbs & Howell, I believe. I don't have it in front of me. I have few western notes and would like to pick up a few more but they do not crop up very often.

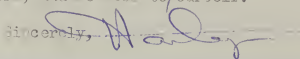
Also, I can not help your friend Willson in his quest of Spanish shells. I have one contact in Melillo, Spanish Morocco, who has exchanged a few shells with me but I have tried for three years to make other contacts there with no success. Have some coming from Greece but doubt that they will amount to much. If your friend has Pettibidea that he cares to exchange, maybe we can get together.

Hope you do get to Sarasota this spring. Along a out April, Mrs. Freeman and myself will probably be heading over that way to do a little swelling ourselves, and we usually spend a few days at Sarasota or Bradenton. Let us know when you go and where you will be.

Do you have any CSA material which you care to dispose of? I have want lists from two different parties, who have Florida notes they will exchange for Grodbeer numbers which they lack and you know me and Florida. I have written to the point that I will exchange gold coins for Fla. notes which I lack.

Again thanks for the tip on the map. Write more often, I enjoy your letters, and be good to yourself.

Sincerely,



February 17, 1954

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I am enclosing a Florida item which is for sale by Henry Stevens Sons and Stiles, of London, whose New York office is at 16 East 46th Street, New York 17, New York. I know nothing about this item and merely am sending it to keep you happy.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EFN/atb

February 19, 1954

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I had just written you a short note Wednesday when your nice letter of February 15th arrived. I am glad some of the items I found for you are interesting and will keep sending you interesting things.

I would like, very much, to see the \$2 of Independence, Missouri. I probably will have the avaricious attitude toward that piece that you had toward some of the Florida notes I had.

We have finally made arrangements to stay at the Surf and Sand Hotel, in Sarasota, from March 13th to March 21st and then may drive to Marineland and go home from Jacksonville. Our plans are not definite as to where we will drive.

Perhaps you will be wandering near Sarasota during our stay there and it would be a lot of fun to see you.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

March 5, 1954

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I have never been in a better position to trade an eye for an eye. You sent me a \$2 note. I am sending you a \$2 note. Yours was payable in Confederate money, mine is payable in Confederate money. Yours is from Missouri, Mine is from Missouri. The one I am sending you is in a little better condition, which relieves my conscience. In any event I am sure the enclosed note of Roberts & Ellis will be in the nature of replacing the draft. The note I am sending I had never seen until six months ago. Yours I had never seen since yesterday. They are both issued by the rebels in Missouri at the time when Missouri was divided in its loyalties.

I am glad to know that you are interested in the western bank notes and I will get my hands on a few more. I have some duplicates now which may interest you and I am wondering whether you have any new colonial duplicates.

You can be assured that if we get any where near Marineland I will try to come to see you, unless you are exhausted from friends who drop in.

I hope you have had a lot of fun chasing shells and I look forward to seeing that fantastic collection which you must have.

Best to you.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

March 1, 1954.

Dear Eric:

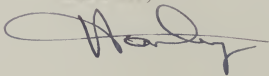
You have me over the barrel with this 2.00 Weber & Griffith note. I should have sent me his south sheet, for it is the only Missouri note in my collection, but you were so darn nice with the Florida material that I will have to give you priority. If by any chance you already have one, then I would like to keep it out if it is new to you, else it is yours. Now, do you happen to have a duplicate no. item that will fit into my picture? Just to have a note from your state.

Thanks also for the list with Florida material. They sure have some nice things but also nice prices. Mostly too high for my blood.

We leave this Wednesday, March 3rd. For a few days at Sanibel Island, however we will have to be back here by the 10th. That way I can see no chance of our getting back to the west coast this month, much as I would like to see you. The season is in full swing and we have loads of friends who are here for the month of March, which is going to keep us going day and night the rest of the month. If you can see your way to running over this way for a day, do drop us a line so that we can come that day soon. If you follow the usual route to Marinsland, Nos. 17 & 22, you will no pick up our baggage for we are on A 1 1 in Ormond Beach, just an hour drive from Marinsland.

Let us know your plans and have a good vacation. Will write more later.

Sincerely,



HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

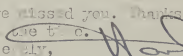
March 27, 1958.

Dear Eric:

Guess I'll have to thank you by mail for the discount note, rather than in person. I had a hunch that you might drive by our place on your way to Washington, so we stayed home Sunday, the 23rd. Even had some of my Florida material on hand to show you. Well, maybe the next time you come to Florida we can get together. No more that your vacation was a pleasant one. We rather like Arizona ourselves and often spend a few days there but don't pick any right time of the year for vacation--just see how and at certain places.

As for "Tourist Fatigue", I believe we will recover and this past week was a honey. I am just getting old enough that I can not take cocktail parties and dinner parties every night and this past week seemed to glaze the whole winter season. Five of them in six days. While we lined at home and my better half is already in bed. I am going to flash off a few letters and then follow her and so far, we do not have a single engagement scheduled. Of course, a couple of nights alone will work wonders even on an old man like myself. Any of our friends have left for the north tho there are still quite a few tourists here and Ellisor Village, of which you have probably heard, had to edule the Mrs. America contest for the latter part of April, which is supposed to bring quite a few people to Ormond Beach. The Grand stand and most of the activities will be held about five houses to the south of us, so we are probably in for considerable excitement and large crowds on our beach.

Sorry, but since now I do not give any colonial duplicates. Several dealers have been writing me, especially asking for just that. In fact, I have very few duplicates of any type except for a couple of hundred Virginia 25 notes. I am interested in seeing what you are going to offer in western bank notes and will make every effort to dig up exchange material which might interest you. Might even offer you some marine shells in exchange, tho they are becoming increasingly hard to obtain, at least shells new to our collection.

Well, again we are sorry we missed you. Thanks for the note and write when you have the time.
Sincerely,


March 30, 1954

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I was very disappointed not to have been able to contact you on our trip through Florida. On Monday night, March 22, I telephoned you from Silver Springs and your home did not answer. At 8:30 A. M. on March 23 I called again and the 'phone did not answer and I presumed, therefore, that you were not in town. We, therefore, by-passed Ormond Beach and went to the sugar mill, near Flagler Beach, and then up the coast. I even had some notes with me in hopes that we could swap a few further items and would appreciate it if you will let me know whether you have any colonial duplicates left of any sort.

As to your Florida collection, I want to call your attention to a very nice group of Florida notes which I saw on the second floor of the second oldest house in St. Augustine. This collection was given, in 1952, to the Historical Society and it contains some very nice Florida notes. I suggest that the next time you are in St. Augustine you look over the group - which I estimate has 30 or 40 notes.

I was all keyed up to seeing you and abandoning my family for a good numismatic day but we ended up ahead of our schedule and as a result went to Greensboro, North Carolina for the balance of the week. There will be a "next time" but I wanted it to be a "this time".

We enjoyed Tarpon Springs, Silver Springs and Marineland tremendously and I was amazed at the prosperity of Florida.

Almost everybody in Florida seems to be a shell collector. You have to get up before dark to beat the beachcombers along the beach almost any where.

My best to you.

Sincerely,

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

May 17, 1960.

Dear John:

We had then there will be a next time and that you are advised to Florida again. For the life of me I don't see how we missed you for you were none of the times you said you called. Besides a chance to show you some of my material, I would have enjoyed making a few notes with you, too I do not have my colonial facilities at present. Recently visited my collection Florida material too mostly the small scale of 1862. I number of varieties new to me and a few duplicates.

Yes, I have seen the collection by Mr. St. Augustine (Museum) Society Library, in fact, many of them and from a collection. I donated a few and sold a number to the group who started the collection, also secured that a number for a couple more and which I located. We were in there just last week, I wanted to check a book in the library, and even visited the old fort. I suppose you saw that, as the Director, Albert Smith, is a good friend of mine. He had just obtained an old bronze cannon, Spanish, and was like a kid with a new toy.

Sacron Springs, Mineraland, Curacao Springs. I agree with you are interesting but I got off on Father's business, but we have had to visit a number of times, taking friends over who have never been there. They ask too much for what they give you and I think their appreciation is poor.

I'll agree that most everyone from here or who passes for any time at all is interested in shell collecting, however, after one collects for a while and keeps a little about them, hard working is almost a waste of time, except after a storm. The shells one finds are usually dead ones and the serious collector wants them alive. Our own collection is gradually squeezing us out of the house.

Any time you have material or cash or time, send it on and with love in the good.

Harley L. Freeman



HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

June 3, 1944.

Dear Eric:

I'm sorry, so sorry, to learn of your loss of the Florida notes in your collection. Many years ago I had a similar experience when it only cost me a very few notes, mostly United States currency. Jess Taylor, of Buffalo, N.Y., recently wrote me that he had lost a considerable number of material the same way. Were your envelopes which you had suppressed recently?

I have listed the assortment of notes you sent for exchange, especially the dissonant items. I am now in order from your state as well as some of the other western states. Don't have a single note of Kansas. I do have a number of the Vermont Glass Co. notes but none of the others other than those you sent. That issue is quite common. Also have some of the Iowa City, Iowa notes.

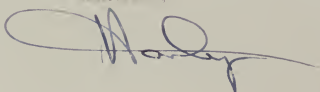
Now regarding unknown material. I have run down my Florida specialties and am enclosing 14 notes for your approval. Some I know are the same as those formerly in your collection, for I made a record of all of your collections as you allowed me to examine it some years ago. Some you are still sure so return the same for duplicates. I am also enclosing half a dozen other notes which are of interest, the three are mostly common varieties. Look over the lot and see if you can find something of interest to replace your losses.

What about the missing? Do you want me to find it or return it? I am not sure who carried this item but they are all copied from it. Some, the early Freeman who came with loudspeaker. The scene is similar to some of his other and recently I picked up some for 1000 colored envelopes. Don't know where, but also copied from the same central source. I would like this envelope if you do not want it back.

Did you see the nice list of notes in the last Numismaticist? Offered by J. Bone, of Texas. Underhand it was all to be some collector in Nebraska. Seem as if nice paper money is at least coming into it's own. I have a nice collection, some five hundred notes, waiting on approval. I collected for over thirty years ago, mostly Ohio, and a few from other states. Would it come up to my expectations?

Perhaps here to Dr. Van Kitchin, or just close for now. Let me know about the enclosed and will be on the watch for anything which I believe you can use.

Sincerely,



Harley

Burial customs in Florida
Probably from a Herman Melt map of 1710-30

#5 + #10⁰⁰ Missouri territory

1868 Great Salt Lake Exp. 5¢

Exchange Bk Arkansas } (just paid ~~6~~⁰⁰

Philadelphia Ark.

Cincinnati & Little Rock

for the 3 items

#10⁰⁰ Bank of the State of Mo. just note

Lyons City, Iowa

Bank of Cairo

Vermont Glass set of 4

2⁰⁰

3⁵⁰

8⁰⁰

July 2, 1954

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

We just moved into our new offices and are very delighted to have a clean, refreshing place in which to work. It was a tremendous job and I could not take care of coins in the meantime.

The engravings of Florida were a present to you. I know nothing about women so I don't know how I am supposed to know the source of the pictures on those engravings.

With respect to my notes which disintegrated in acetate envelopes, you asked me when I got them. They are at least 20 years old. The notes which I lost were the Civil War black and white issues of the State of Florida. The ones with the red overprint I saved. Is it possible that you have any of the black and white group?

You indicated you were getting a group of Ohio notes and I am very interested in obtaining any notes of the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati if you find any in that group.

One of the fascinating things that I located lately was the official franchise for Virginia halfpence and I may have it published if it checks out to be previously unknown. Believe it or not, the Virginia halfpence were made in the Tower of London by the government.

I am returning all of the items you sent me except the following which I do not have:

25¢ Wordhhoft
50¢ Orange Spring, Florida
25¢ and 50¢ Tallahassee
\$1 Merchants and Planters Bank

No doubt you can dig up a few other items I am interested in.

My very best to you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

May 27, 1954

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I have not had time to do justice to you and have been terribly sad over the loss of all my black and white Florida state issues and fractional state issues. The acetate folders in which they were contained got under pressure or had something spilled on them and the entire group was nothing but powder when I found them. My Florida state notes were saved and my Florida red and black notes were saved but the early issues I have to start from scratch again. Whatever you have in duplicates will be most welcome. These are the only notes which I lost by disintegration. I have gone through every note I have to try to pull out envelopes which appear to be yellowing. Apparently, too much nitric acid might have gotten into this batch of envelopes in their manufacture.

You indicated an interest in a number of nice items and I have gone through my Western material on your behalf. I am enclosing a \$5 and \$10 note of the earliest bank west of the Mississippi River when Missouri was a territory. These are signed by the co-founder of St. Louis. These are quite rare.

I am enclosing 3 Arkansas items which cost me an aggregate of \$6. I am enclosing a \$20 Bank of the State of Missouri note which is rather unusual, a \$2 Bank of Cairo, a \$5 Lion City, Iowa, a 50¢ Great Salt Lake and a set of four of the Vermont Glass Company, the latter being unusual enough for you to be interested in, no doubt.

I think the foregoing should be the basis of a substantial exchange covering the Florida notes I now need and any colonial items you may have, or any other duplicates.

Page 2
Mr. Harley L. Freeman

May 27, 1954

In purchasing some engravings I ran across some scenes from Florida in an early eighteenth century book and I am enclosing some of the funeral proceedings attributed to Florida by an engraver whom I believe might be Herman Moll, the map maker.

My very best regards to you.

Sincerely,

EPNewman/atb

Enclosures

July 16, 1954

Mr. Harley S. Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

Thank you for your very nice letter of July 12, 1954. I was most pleased that you were in a position to help me with the Florida state notes which were destroyed. Outside of the rare \$500 note, the only one which appears to be missing is the \$100 of January 1, 1862 and if you ever run into one please buy it for me. I already had found a \$5 1862 and therefore am returning yours. I am also returning one of the notes of the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati. With respect to the 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ state notes of Florida, I did not have a duplicate of the 25¢ and presume you have a good pile of those common ones.

Your desire for a Kansas and Nebraska note made me go to work. I secured the \$2 Nemaha Valley from another collection and am sending you a Drover's Bank of Leavenworth, Kansas from my own collection. I know where a replacement of the Drover's Bank note is but I also know that you will appreciate the rarity of this Kansas note. You have done me a great favor and I will not forget it. The 1/24th real pewter piece is still a mysterious one. During the time the English government was making its own halfpennies in tin they were being made by outside coiners who, no doubt, supplied other token pieces. I agree with you that they are for the American plantations generally where Spanish coins were the basis of the currency. As early as 1704 Queen Anne set the value of Spanish coin in plantation currency by proclamation and subsequently by statute.

If you are considering selling your colonial and continental currency could you hold out an \$8 Yorktown for me as I imagine you have several with different signatures. I also am interested in obtaining some of the Massachusetts issues during 1775 and 1776.

Page 2
Mr. Harley S. Freeman

July 16, 1954

A third group which intrigues me is the South Carolina March 6, 1776 issue. My real preference, of course, is that you, as an outstanding collector of colonial currency, should continue to enjoy it and not sell it.

I wish I could buy the entire collection but I would have so many duplicates I would end up having to dispose of most of it. What I would like to know is, how many pieces are in your collection broken down by state, if possible, and what price would be tempting.

I am certainly pleased to be able to fill in the states of Kansas and Nebraska so you have a proper western representation.

I know that you will have a wonderful time going back to Cleveland and I know the convention will be a very lively one.

Incidentally, if you have a Deseret National Bank of Salt Lake City \$1 National Bank note which is among the National Bank notes you are planning to sell, I would like to have the opportunity to acquire it. I suspect that is one you have held out.

I know where another Nebraska note is and I am going to try to get it for you.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

July 30, 1954

Dear Harley,

I am so delighted that you appreciate the Kansas item as it is a real western rarity. Perhaps many of my western items would make you drool. If I told you I had several hundred pieces from Wisconsin, a hundred from Minnesota, 300 from Missouri, 50 from Arkansas, etc. I might encourage you to come and see them. I don't care whose collection is the biggest or whose is the smallest, as long as he gets enjoyment out of it.

I have not had the opportunity of seeing the Western Reserve collection and look forward to it with extreme interest whenever I can get to Cleveland. My own collection of American paper money is housed in 150 volumes and I guess I am soon going to be crowding the 10,000 mark. I collect everything that was used as money from sales tax tokens to wampum, all series of American coins, tokens, scrip and currency. I have seen the early New York notes in Wayne Raymond's collection in the New York Historical Society, etc. and really appreciate their fascination.

Thanks, so much, for the 25¢ Florida note. I just noticed that there seem to be two different types - one signed by two parties and the other type signed on behalf of the Treasurer. Do you collect these different types? - as in my disintegration, I lost the little fractional notes with the one signature.

If your better half has taken up stamp collecting I think you might elevate her, in due course, to numismatics. I know how hard it is to be interested in a husband's hobbies. They always want to do something on their own. Why don't you start her on something in numismatics which has nothing to do with your collection.

August 2, 1954

-2-

Mr. Harley Freeman

I have not heard from Muscalus. Perhaps he, like a number of others, became disillusioned at the reception of all of the work he did. Frankly, I have always felt that it was very poor and negligently incomplete. It was sort of romanticizing rather than giving any real information. On occasion I used to correspond with Herb Brand, but not often. I correspond with so many people it is a wonder I answer any letters.

My very best to you and I hope you have fun at the convention.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

EPN/atb

October 1, 1954

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I very much appreciate your sending me the \$20 Citizens National Bank of Kansas City note. My collection specimen cost me \$20.00. A few weeks ago I was offered another one for \$35.00 and so I can't get too excited over a note at this price.

I am very pleased that you picked up a Florida National Bank note of the first charter period.

Incidentally, I presume you will keep your eyes open for me for the Florida State \$100.00 note of January 1, 1862.

Thank you for thinking of me.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Oct. 15, 1954.

Dear Eric:

You lucky stiff. Face value for first charter notes. I don't believe I ever bought more than three notes in my life at face, that is, first charter notes. I did get a few at one of the banks, many years ago, but bought the guy a dinner to get them. Well, I got the dealer to cut his price another ten per cent and kept the note myself. Some ~~day~~, some collector of western nationals will want that note pretty bad. At any rate, I made a good try to get you something in your line.

No, I won't forget you if and when I pick up a \$100 Florida Jan. 1, 1862. I did buy one at the Cleveland convention, paid \$6.00 for the note which I figured would ~~check~~ ^{hook} you for a loop, but the note was uncirculated. When I got home I checked it against my own two specimens and find that it is a new variety, so you are out of a note. Don't worry, I'll get another shortly. I hope to look over a lot of several hundred such notes within the next few weeks and may be able to do a little swapping. They are in a local museum and I will have to pull some strings to even ~~exchange~~ ^{exchange} with them, but believe it can be done.

Now, and this is for free, a nice clean, blank, bank check, pertaining to St. Louis. Don't know if you go in for this sort of stuff, but it came in a lot of notes and I don't want it. If you can not use same, then it will make a nice book mark. It has a nice view of the old town which should be of some interest.

At one time you sent me a list of some of your odd denomination notes and you listed 7¢, 12¢, \$200, \$300, notes or scrip. Do you happen to have any duplicates of the above? I seem to lack them in my own collection. And do you have any Bank of North America duplicates for sale or trade? I am forming a nice collection of that bank but lack a great many of their series.

Regards and good collecting.

Sincerely,



HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Spet. 3, 1954.

Dear Eric:

Back from the convention and catching up in my mail. Had a fine time, met many old friends tho they are thinning out and more there that I did not know than the opposite way. There were only five of us there from the 1924 convention in Cleveland, my first one, and not over fifteen from the 1934 convention, when yours truly was general chairman. It don't take long for the picture to change.

Had a nice chat with Art Kelly and now know why I never obtain any scarce Missouri or other western notes from that part of the country. I have not seen Art in eight or ten years. Visited with Max Ehl and Philpott, I imagine you know them both, and of course, you do know some of the eastern collectors. Sold a number of my duplicates and acquired a number of new notes, in two small collections. Will peddle most of them but there were a few I wanted. My best buy was a first charter of Florida and a nice 50¢ of San Francisco, payable in gold dust, both nice itmes and the Florida note is unique, as far as we know. Have you ever seen one?

Thanks for the Goodspeed's cat. I had already sent for the book and now have it. I have two other copies but it is worth much more than \$4.00 so could not pass it up. I have several copies of many of the old works on Colonial currency which I have just picked up as they were offered.

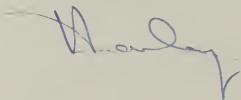
Your list of Wisc., Minn, Missouri, and Ark. notes amazes me. Of course, I have never seriously gone after anything except Ohio and now Florida material, but the number you list is really startling. I never dreamed that that many existed from some of those states. As for the Florida notes of 1863, the fractional, there are the two different types and also the ones printed on the back of old bonds and obsolete notes. I collect all of them and now have one of the bonds just about reconstructed except for three notes. Have never seen one of the Florida bonds, have you? I did pick up a couple of Fla. notes at the convention, one a new type, but they are still scarce.

As for converting Mrs. Freeman to coin collecting, that is out of the question. She has the second lowest Associate "embership number on the books, joining in 1932 or 1933, I believe, but has never been interested in the subject, at least, in my particular phases of the hobby. She does enjoy seeing some of the ancients and large foreign gold, but not to the extent of wanting to collect. As for her philatelic interest, I hope it lasts. I would like to have her develop a hobby, even at this late date, and she is getting quite a kick out of looking over consignments. We have three other friends, all maiden ladies, who are also shelling friends and part of ~~my~~ harem, and they get together once a week and swap duplicates from their stamps. Freeman's harem, which consists of a middle aged attorney, a briefly married doctor of chiropody who also did a stretch in the navy, another old maid who has her own book store, and a five foot one inch man hater who is a play ground supervisor, together with my wife, makes as odd an assemblage as one could devise, but we do have fun. I'm taking the girls out to dinner tomorrow nite, then a fast six handed game of Samba, I hope that shells and stamps are forgotten for the nite.

Asked about Muscalus at the convention but no ~~one~~ ^{one} ever seems to hear of him any more. By the way, did you know Jake Spiro? Just had a letter from his son saying that Jake passed away around July 15th.

I am getting to the point that I am hitting the wrong letters and have not had a drink as yet, tho it's near time, so better close while I can still read my own typing. I go along fine for a couple of hours, then it seems as if one hand can not keep up with the other, but I have never determined which one lags. Let me hear from you when you have the time, I always enjoy your letters, good collecting and best wishes.

Sincerely,



HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Sept. 28, 1954.

Dear Eric:

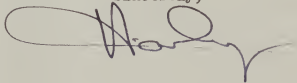
The enclosed note was just sent me, together with a few others, on approval. He has it tagged at \$95, which is not too bad for a western item. I know that I paid more than that for many of my own. However, he does offer me 10% off on any I keep.

If interested, send me your check, *see 1-7a* if not, return the note fairly promptly.

Just got my first First Charter of Florida. The only one I have ever seen, The First National Bank of Pensacola, Fla. 1880, a \$5.00 note. Also picked up a few later nationals of this state.

Regards and all that,

Sincerely,



1 note enc.

April 18, 1955

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

It has been so long since I have written you I am ashamed, but I have been working on too many other matters to do right by you.

In the Swann Galleries auction of April 28, 1955 there is an item - Manuscript of a Trip to Florida for Health and Sport - by Cyrus Condit, 162 pages, written about 1855. It is written in fictional form and the incidents and descriptions are founded upon his personal experiences at Welaka, which ought to be quite near Ormond Beach. I wrote to ask what estimated value they placed on it and they gave me a \$35.00 to \$50.00 valuation. I have forgotten whether you get their catalogue or not but it is Item No. 140 and I am enclosing the description.

You may be interested to know that there will be published in the Numismatist, soon, a complete description of the 1/2th so-called Florida piece. One of the things I prove is that it was for the English colonies in America as a whole and Florida was not one at the time and therefore it is applicable to every part of the mainland, except Florida.

My wife and I are going to Yugoslavia this summer to take a little look. Are there any sea shells on the Dalmatian coast which I can find for you?

If you want me to bid for you with respect to this Florida manuscript don't hesitate to ask me to do so.

The address of Swann Auction Galleries is 471 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

April 23, 1955.

Dear Eric:

Thanks for the memo on the Florida manuscript. I am tempted to bid but then wonder, what would I do with it if successful. Oh well, if you are submitting bids put mine in for \$35 and I will gamble. I can at least turn it over to the Florida Historical Society and let them work it into something, maybe publish it in their quarterly. I hardly have time to establish a credit with Swann Galleries and I am not on their mailing lists.

Thank heaven you are doing something about the so called Florida Pieces. I have contended right along that it was British but have not had the time or material to so prove. I have three nice specimens, all different, so there must have been many dies or molds, for it is a cast piece. Maybe some are modern fakes.

Do you remember those 2 Proclamation Pieces which you got for me from Johnson's estate some years back? Have you any idea how Johnson obtained them or what he may have paid for them. One I am sure is the Mickley specimen and I have traced them back to around 1358 but have sort of lost them from the 19-- period. I have obtained photographs of everything published on them and am quite sure that I can prove them to be Spanish Florida but there are a few missing links. Am now checking the Seville Archives, thru micro film and photo-stats in the University of Florida for more data. Do you know of any others and if so, who owns them? I have contacted Anderson, Raymond, Gibbs, and just about every one who I believe might know.

We will be happy to have any kind or types of shells which you might find on the Dalmation coast. That area around there has many interesting specimens. We have them from various parts of the Mediterranean, Italy, Malta, Greece, Spanish Morocco and others but none from the section to which you are going. We are more interested in small shells than in the large showy types and of course Eric, get out in the water and take them alive or climb around the rocks and look for them hanging under ledges or turn over rocks and look for them there. Or better still, dig in nice thick mud, for that is where the bivalves live. Of course, I know just how much time you

and your good wife will have for all of this activity but just in case you are bored otherwise, that is where to look for them. Then of course, after one finds the live shells, which is the only way to seriously collect, there is the problem of removing the animal, saving the operculum or trap door which the animal uses for protection, keeping track of the location etc. Lots of fun if one likes to work. Well, we will be looking for specimens.

Did you bid on any of Jake Spiro's stuff in Schulman's last sale? I entered about thirty five bids and got just five lots. Much of that material I could have liked to have had but there were plenty of bidders. Have been picking up here and there a few interesting odd denomination items. Again I forget, was it a 70¢ or 90¢ note that you lacked. I just picked up one of the latter. Also got the \$11-\$12-\$13-\$14 notes in Bolender's sale of some time ago but paid plenty for them. Got a 6¢ note a short time back but still lack a 7¢.

Well, guess that covers everything. Enter a bid for me if you will and write again when in the mood. Regards and every good wish on your coming trip.

Sincerely,



P.S.

Eric, have decided to bid direct on lot #140, in order to save time. My bid is being mailed today. Thanks however for the offer to bid for me.

H.L.F.

May 5, 1955

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

You asked about the pedigree of the two so-called Proclamation pieces from Florida. I believe they came from the Colonel Green collection which acquired them from the Newcomer collection. I certainly hope you have good luck with them in checking through the archives of Seville. I have never heard of any others.

It looks to me as if I cost you some money. I bid \$35.00 on the \$11, \$12, \$13 and \$14 notes in Bolender's sale but didn't get the items, as you well know. On the Schulman sale I put in some bids indirectly but did not get anything. I know Hans very well, am a good friend of his, but I do not expect anything from his auctions except at fantastically high prices. The note I am missing is the 70¢ note - if you ever locate one.

I sincerely hope you got the Florida item in the Swann catalogue as I got two fascinating publications in the same auction which were the conversion tables published in America in 1793 and 1800 to help you convert the different state currencies into Federal money and into the other monies of the world.

Your letter about sending in the bid for the Florida item was very amusing. It is like the story about the tirade of the customer against Sears-Roebuck for failing to include the pump handle with the pump that was bought. There is a post-script at the end of the letter to the effect that he has just found the pump handle.

I hope to have my article on the Virginia coinage finished within a month and I am sure you will be interested in it.

My kindest personal regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

May 9, 1955.

Dear Eric:

Thanks for the information on the Proclamation pieces. Wonder who Newcomer got them from? There is a lapse in there that I have not been able to trace. Wayne Raymond claims that he sold one many years ago but can not recall where it came from or to whom he sold it.

As for your \$35 bid at Bolender's sale, some one went much higher than that before I got it. And I agree with your remarks about Mans. His prices are high- HIGH- HIGHER.

I bid \$40 at the Swann sale and the item went for \$55, so some one wanted it. However, I am now on their mailing list, thanks to you. The two items you obtained were good. I have the American Negotiator of 1761.

Again, have a nice time on your vacation and if, in your travels you ever run across any of those Spanish Proclamation pieces, similar to those from the Green collection, please let me know where they are.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Freeman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Sept. 18, 1955.

Dear Eric:

Received the reprint of your article on the 1/2uth Seal and appreciate your reimbursing me. Of course I read it in the Numismatist but am happy to have the separate.

Did you take your trip to Yugoslavia this summer and how did you enjoy it? A rather unusual place to vacation for you never saw the place advertised too much. Any success numismatically or was the trip just plain sight seeing?

an across a nice looking map yesterday and wondered if you might know anything about it. I'll try to describe it:

AMERICAN MAPS OF THE WORLD Par 8 1/2" x 11" d' Abbeville
Geographie du Roy

at bottom;- A. d' Winter, Sculp. About 8" x 12".

Nice clean copy but has been trimmed and framed so that the original was some larger. I was tempted to buy it, \$12.50, but the first I would check with you as to date and probably value. The owner is a former St. Louis chap, Jerome Goldman, who either knows you or knows of you. He has a small antique store down in Daytona Beach.

Have a friend who is trying hard to locate a \$1.00 Scott, Kerr & Co. Atchison, Kans. note, with portrait of Gen. Scott. Do you happen to have a specimen or by any chance a duplicate? I owe him something in exchange for notes he let me have and I said I would contact what sources I knew of who might have a specimen. Was fortunate some time back in getting first look at an old collection of obsolete currency, 3500 pieces, and found around two hundred of interest. Of course, I took whatever western there were but they were few, however there were a few early eastern notes. I am especially interested in Bank of North America and Bank of the United States material.

The hurricane Ione passed us this morning around 6 AM so we are now riding out the tail winds. Not too high but around 7 last evening I ran down the TV antenna and pulled down the storm shutters, just in case. Heavy rain and the tides are about two feet above normal but again we are lucky. The sea is just high enough however that it should make for good shelling in about three days. By the way, what success shelling on your trip????

So, again thanks for the reprint and all past favors and keep up the good work on your articles. You are really doing a good job on some neglected series. If you have any idea regarding the value of the map, drop me a note at your convenience as it does appeal to me. It shows California as an island and calls it such.

Regards and all kind wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Long', written in a cursive style.

November 17, 1955

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I am enclosing 2 catalogues which contain some Florida material with the thought that you might be interested. The limited time I have devoted to numismatics has put me far behind in my correspondence and I am ashamed that your last letter is dated September 18th.

You indicated you had a friend who was looking for a \$1 Scott Curran & Co. note. The only one I have is my collection specimen.

As far as maps are concerned removed from atlases, I have just about given up acquiring these. There are just too many and unless I can get the whole atlas I pass them up.

I believe you have a piece of paper money of a 70¢ denomination and I still have not been able to acquire one. I wonder if you would let me know the name of the issuer so that I may search more thoroughly..

My present problem is trying to rehouse all of my paper money as my cellulose acetate containers, which are 25 years old, cannot be trusted any more. As you know, I lost a number of notes by the deterioration of the envelopes. I am trying to set up, for our Historical Society, Art Museum, and for myself, a little machine which will be able to make envelopes of acetate or similar material in any desired size.

You certainly were lucky to find a collection of 3500 pieces of paper currency to go through. I haven't seen anything decent in so long I wonder where these collections are. At least there is a little more interest in them than existed in the past but I find no one even cares what is counterfeit and what isn't.

The Museum at Boys' Town, Nebraska, has certainly developed interest in paper money and Mr. Barrett is still working there

-2-

Mr. Harley Freeman

November 17, 1955

particularly to determine the notes from which other notes were altered.

We still are talking about our wonderful trip to Yugoslavia. We went in swimming on many, many coasts and never could find anyone who knew anything about shells. Perhaps my German was too miserable. They went through our suitcases while we were out of our hotel room and we were warned by what we believe was a British spy not to have anything to do with a gentleman whom we had been talking to who was, no doubt, a Russian spy. The roads were horrible but the people were friendly, disillusioned and amazingly adapted to their form of government. They are in amazing physical condition because athletics and dancing seems to be their only real amusement. Any thought that they are friendly toward the United States as opposed to Russia is ridiculous. Their entire culture and thinking is based on Russian doctrines and they merely want to be independent of anyone and will take any help to stay independent.

You will be interested to know that I have found, in Washington, D. C., in the government records, a description of the counterfeits of the May 20, 1777 and the Yorktown, 1778 issues of Continental currency. This description is the official description by our government and I am going to have it published in the Numismatist, I believe, along with an article on the subject "Counterfeit Continental Notes Put Out By the British". I was looking for something entirely different when I tripped over a reference to this broadside containing the information about the counterfeit notes. They are repairing the broadside now and will send me the photostat shortly. I believe it was you who first pointed out the rarity of the May 20, 1777 issue.

My kindest personal regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Dec. 10, 1955.

Dear Eric:

It's cold today. Down to 35 this morning tho the sun will warm things up to around 60 this afternoon. That's darn cold for down this way but we have a nice new GE furnace with automatic controlls and with the thermostat set at 76, we sit at the front window and watch the tourists brave the breezes as they stroll on the beach. Yesterday, with the temperature in the fifties, some were wearing shorts and a few brave souls were fishing the surf. Snow birds as we call them but then, we too were Damn Yankees and did the same thing when we only came down for the winter season. It was a ritual to go in swimming on Xmas regardless of the temperature. Now we go in only in July and August, when we go swimming. I have not been in the water on our beach in two years.

The cold weather is driving the northerners down early this year and everything points to a very good season. We just returned from a short stay at Clearwater and things were picking up over that way and we passed a great many foreign cars on the road. The motels along routes No. 1 and ALA are pretty full every nite which means that folks are traveling and some of our friends who own courts or motels say that their reservations are much better than last year. All of which indicates that business up north must be very good and people have money to spend. Several of our friends are coming south a couple of weeks earlier than they usually do.

At Clearwater we organized a state numismatic organization, Florida United Numismatists, (FUN) for short, with a charter membership of 72. Still a lot of work to be done but we have a couple of young live wires in the group who will push things. A little too much dealer influence to suit me but guess we have to have them. They pretty much dominate ANA activities and of course, with all of the sectional and state groups holding meetings every few weeks or so, there is just a circuit which the dealers travel from one part of the country to another. We had them down here from New York to New Mexico tho most of the business they did was among themselves.

Thanks for sending the catalogues. There were a number of items which sounded interesting but prices on those which I did want were pretty high. I finally decided to pass up everything but I appreciate your kindness. As for maps, I am somewhat like yurself. There are just too many of them. Roland Tree, of Henry Stevens etc. was in Daytona Beach a few

weeks back and I spent several interesting hours looking over his material and getting a liberal education on the subject of old maps and books. Wound up with a couple of nice maps but decided that there are just too many to bother with unless one wants to specialize. I think I'll just frame a few of my most interesting ones and hang them on the library wall tho the room is so small that they will crowd it.

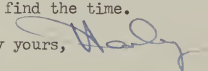
You mentioned that you had lost a number of your notes, housed in your acetate containers. Just what type of containers did you use? One other party told me the same thing and I have been watching my stuff pretty close but so far have had no damage. I use the large sheet of four holders, originally used by Col. Green and made by Markillo of Chicago, I believe. Don't know if I have spelled that right. They are probably twenty years or more old but still seem fresh. Recently had Brown, in Okla. make me some similar to them. I book of these holders, fortunately empty, which I had stored in a warm room under a fairly heavy weight, did crystalize and crumble, but that has been my only loss. I like these sheet of four holders as one can re-construct a cut sheet with them and one can also see both obverse and reverse. I have sixteen of the old Green binders, heavy but handy.

The note you asked about and which I have been trying to locate for you is a 70¢ "The County of Roanoke", dated at Salem, Va. Dec. 1, 1862. They also issued 60¢-80¢-90¢, of which the 60 and 90 seem the most common, but I have only located my own in the 70 and 80. Recently saw a 9¢ note which I never saw before and have been trying to pick up a 17¢ from Conn.

By the way, some time back when checking thru my Florida collection I ran across a photostat of a \$5.00 Bank of Commerce, Fernandina, which you had sent me as being in your collection. How come I never tried to swap you something for that note? Have you anything you especially are interested in that I might offer you in exchange but don't ask for westerms for I don't have very many? And forget the \$1 Scott Curran & Co. note. I'll let my friend locate his own.

Your trip thru Yugoslavia sounded interesting and exciting. Cloak and dagger stuff. Did Mrs. Newman enjoy it as much as yourself? Thanks for trying for the shells. I suppose they exist over there but may be in deeper water. Our own shelling activity has waned a bit, mainly because Mrs. Freeman can get around the way she used to. A drive of any extent or very much walking bothers her back and lays her up for days so we have done very little the past several months.

Will be anxious to see your article pertaining to the counterfeit Continental Currency, when published. You certainly do dig up some interesting information and prepare even more interesting papers. End of paper and postman due so will close for now. Regards and write when you find the time.

Sincerely yours, 

December 13, 1955

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

Thank you for your nice letter of December 10 and I am delighted that you have a new numismatic organization for Florida.

As to housing paper money, I want you to know that the containers in which your paper money rests are made of cellulose nitrate which will decompose with heat, with pressure, with moisture, with certain chemicals in the air and with certain chemicals in paper money and also for no reason. I, too, have all of my paper money in this material. I have been working diligently to arrange for cellulose acetate for all of my items and I am studying the various ways to do so. Mine are 25 years old, just as yours are, and I, frankly, feel we are lucky these haven't deteriorated heretofore. I have all of Colonel Green's leather books with individual cellulose nitrate envelopes. As soon as I determine on the cost and the practicability of envelopes which are safe, I will communicate the information to you as perhaps you might like to put those in to your books and throw out the nitrate before you have an accident. I don't mean to scare you after all these years but I am scared.

I have the Bank of Commerce of Fernandina, Florida and you never asked me about acquiring it. I don't know what duplicates you might have that I might want.

I want you to do me a favor and that is to send to me all of your Continental issues of May 20, 1777 and April 11, 1778 and any other Continental notes which you believe may be counterfeit. Do not send any blue sheets. I will return them after examination and merely want to check them as I am having a terrible time determining what are counterfeits and what are not as to certain issues even using the blue sheets. This will be a great convenience for me and I hope it will not inconvenience you.

In my article I am outlining all of the proof that the British were doing the counterfeiting not only of the issues above-mentioned, but of many others. I am enclosing a photostat of

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Mr. Harley Freeman

December 13, 1955

the fascinating document I found in the Congressional records. It is amazing that even our own government did not know all of the counterfeits which were out and therefore must have re-deemed counterfeits not listed. Wait till you read my article. The only part remaining to be finished is the description of all of the known counterfeit notes and that is the reason I am contacting you and requesting the notes mentioned. I even have notes which are marked "counterfeit" and which are actually genuine. Confusion must have been at a new high.

Best wishes for the Holidays.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Dec. 13, 1955.

Dear Eric:

This is a rather prompt reply to your recent letter but some of your remarks so intrigued me that I had to comment on them at once. This also happens to be the last sheet of this size paper in my desk so excuse the typing error with which I started this letter. Two hours ago I would blame it on a couple of Dry Martinis but now, after a very fine dinner I am cold sober so while waiting for the Ed. Sullivan show to start, will pound out a letter to you.

How do you tell the difference between cellulose nitrate and cellulose acetate? I have always been under the impression that the holders used by Col. Green were the latter and yet, one of my ~~green~~ brown leather books with the individual envelopes, did just what you said it would a short time back. Fortunately it was empty but I had it in a rather warm closet, under several boxes, and when I took it out a few weeks back they had all gone to powder. Even the book was pretty much ruined so I just threw the whole thing in the rubbish. I have a couple more of those same binders down in the air conditioned bank vault with my entire collection of Cleveland Nationals and have had it there for several years so examined them the other day. Everything seems to be in good order but you have me worried.

A number of the large 4 and 6 unit holders for sheets or re-constructed sheets have deteriorated under similar conditions but again, fortunately, there were no notes in any of them. I always figured that it was the pressure of piling other books on top of them so for the past few years I have stored all of my binders in a verticle position and with very little pressure on them and so far, have had no trouble.

Have you had any experience with the envelopes made by R.H. Brown, of Tulsa, Okla.? I recently purchased a couple of hundred from him, he copied them from one of the Green envelopes that I sent him and he claims that his are made from the acetate but again, how does one tell? I plan to get a letter off to him at once for another check as I was going to order another hundred or so of the 4 note holders. Please let me know as soon as you learn of something safe to use. One other question. How are the small book holders put out by Wayne Raymond and Sol Kaplan?

Now for the Bank of Commerce of Fernandina, Fla. item. I too don't know I missed it when we completed that exchange a few years back but I'll try to dig up something of interest to you. Enclosed is a Florida note on a bank that failed as did also the city. Magnolia is now only a pile of ruined foundations, about thirty miles south of Tallahassee. You may have this note and if so, send it back and I'll try to dig up something else to offer but the convention in Clearwater just about cleaned me out of Florida duplicates and what other material I have to exchange is all the more common stuff.

Now to your project and the Continental counterfeits. I have a rather nice batch of contemporary counterfeits and a hasty check of them agrees with the article you sent me. I hesitated to ship anything like this at Xmas time but am sure that registered mail is safe enough and thought you might be anxious to

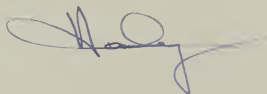
check thru them during the holidays. I got them out of the vault Friday and have spent a good part of today going thru my Continentals. I am enclosing all of my May 20, 1777 and April 11, 1778 notes and all other counterfeits as I have had them selected for several years. There are a couple of letters from John Richardson, who passed on a number of years back. He and I spent a good many hours checking signatures and counterfeits and had agreed ~~and~~ about the same things as your article, which by the way is very interesting and thanks for the copy. There are also a number of others counterfeits, not described in this article but quite evident so, make what you can out of these and return at your convenience. As you can see, I have many duplicates, selected for signatures, some of which I have not been able to decipher.

I have loaned my counterfeits of New York, Penn, Va., Conn., S.C. and other colonies to various parties who have been studying contemporary counterfeiting. Harrold Gillingham, Kenneth Scott, and a couple of others are the ones who have been working along this line.

Well, guess that about covers your letter and questions. I assume you have either uncut sheets or blue test sheets of the issues in question. I do not have all of them but do have several. It has been some time since I have done much with Colonial and Continental paper except to dig out a number of signatures for Dr. Joe Fields to examine. He is working up an article for Manuscripts, listing all known Signers, Members of the Cont. Congress, Members of the Stamp Act Congress, and several other categories, who also signed the little brown bills and is using my material for his article. He should be coming along with it most any day now.

So, I'll close now. Most time for Sullivan. Regards and all good wishes for the holiday season to you and Mrs. Newman and I'll look forward to hearing from you some time after the holidays.

Sincerely yours,



enc.

8/15/4 Apr. 11, 1778

8/21/9/1 May 20, 1777

13 Misc. ctf's and facsimile notes.

December 23, 1955

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I received your Continental notes and am delighted to be able to work on them. They are sensational.

I want to put you at ease quickly as to what is cellulose acetate and what is cellulose nitrate. If you apply a match to cellulose acetate it will only melt and will not catch fire. Cellulose nitrate will burn very quickly. They do not use cellulose nitrate any more and any new envelopes you had made up by Brown will be acetate.

I certainly wish I could talk you in to parting with a couple of your counterfeit Continentals. I would like to improve some of my specimens and add one or two.

I have just found an official British admission of counterfeiting Continental notes.

Best Holiday wishes.

Sincerely yours,

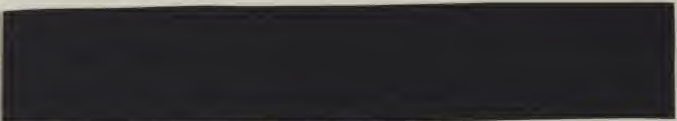
EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Jan. 24, 1956.

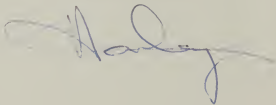
Dear Eric:

We are back home again so any time you care to return those notes, we are here to receive them. No rush however from my end. I just did not want them lying around in our post office.



Have a line on a small collection of Florida currency which I hope I can talk the party into selling. Also have a nice collection of Bank of North America material for which I am dickering. I rather find that bank interesting to study. I am about a month behind in correspondence so will cut this rather short but will be looking for your article on the Counterfeit Continentals.

Sincerely yours,



February 8, 1956

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I am glad you are healthy and locating more paper money.

I am enclosing for your perusal my article on Counterfeit Continental Currency and would appreciate it if you will read it and give me any suggestions you may have. I would like this text returned to me after you have read it as I will need it in connection with its submission for publication. I have submitted it to the Numismatist and will see what they have to say.

I am still retaining your Continental notes as I wish to photograph a number of them depending on what space for illustration the Numismatist may wish. Perhaps I will photograph the best copies of the counterfeits in both your collection and mine along with genuine specimens so that I will have a nice record, regardless of what is published.

Kenneth Scott wants me to write the history of the counterfeiting of all State paper issues during the Revolution. I hope I have enough willpower not to give in.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Feb. 23, 1956.

Dear Eric:

I am a bit late in returning your manuscript but I have taken time to run thru my collection of old papers, books, articles and notes of various types to see if I could add anything to your very fine article. You ~~seem~~to have pretty well covered the subject and most of the material I have is already mentioned by you.

To say that I thoroughly enjoyed your paper is an understatement. I have gone thru it several times. Of course, it touches on a subject which has always intrigued me and in my many years of collecting the little brown bills, the contemporary counterfeits have appealed to me as much if not more than the genuine notes. That is one reason that I have as ~~many~~ as I have. I have loaned what I have of several of the colonies to Gillingham, when he was writing on the subject, Scott, and some time back to a chap in South Carolina, just off hand I can not recall his name but he promised to send me a copy of his paper when completed. I believe the only colony that I do not have a counterfeit from is Georgia and oddly, that is my most complete collection.

So, hope that the Numismatist does publish your article and if they make up a reprint, do reserve me a copy.

Bank of Fernandina
5-1-56
What did you decide on the Bank of Fernandina note? I sent you a note on Magnolia, I believe, as I do not recall you having that Bank in your collection, but you never mentioned it in your last two letters. If you already have the Bank of Magnolia, I'll try to dig up some other Florida note to swap with you, but right now my Florida duplicates are pretty darn low.

So, keep up the interesting research work you are doing and I am always willing to loan you anything that I might have might be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,



March 6, 1956

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I have become so absorbed in my article I am neglecting everything else; however, I am sure I will recover.

First, the Numismatist has agreed to publish it. I have located a considerable amount of new material and I am enclosing one section of the new material which I am sure will be of great interest to you particularly because of all the intrigue.

I am sorry I neglected to send you the \$5 Bank of Commerce of Fernandino, which I am enclosing. I am also returning the \$3 Merchants and Planters Bank of Magnolia which I already have.

I presume you saw the article on shells in Sports Magazine which came out recently. I thought of you as I read through each and every detail.

Kenneth Scott has asked me to join him in writing a book on Colonial Currency and I will give this a little thought in the future. He is writing a book for the Oxford Press covering counterfeiting throughout the colonies. I am sure he will use many of your items as illustrations.

I am still retaining your Continentals for photography, which I will complete shortly. Incidentally, I noticed among them, two \$80 counterfeits which are identical in the January 17, 1779 group except for a different color ink in the signatures. I do not have that counterfeit and if you feel like parting with it it would give me a lot of pleasure. It is very nice of you to encourage me in my research by being willing to loan me things of interest and it is only possible to do accurate research by cooperation of people like yourself. I am intrigued by the entire subject of Colonial Currency as well as Colonial coins and expect to keep right on working in that field to the extent I have the time to do so.

My very kindest regards, and thanks.

Sincerely,

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

March 13, 1956.

Dear Eric:

Enjoyed this article very much and know that your entire story will be even more interesting. I do hope that you and Scott go ahead with a book on Colonial paper. Why not also include a check list as I have planned to do for many years, showing a list of all issues and denominations, authorized and known signers, the names of the printers where known, how many of each denomination were supposed to be issued and how many were redeemed where those figures were available. Then any stories on the subject and also the stories on the counterfeits. All the above would really make a good subject and if some of the earlier notes were illustrated it would of course add much to the interest. Give this some thought.

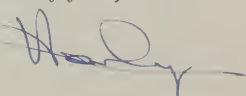
If you are sure that my two \$80 notes are identical and have the same signatures, I don't care about the different shades of ink, you may keep one of them in exchange for this Florida item. Is that agreeable with you? Just give me the number of the note so that I can cross it off my records, tho I probably could determine that number easily enough by checking thru my lists.

We do not subscribe to Sports Magazine but will try to dig up a copy and read the article. Shelling has been rather slow of late since Mrs. Freeman can not get around quite as well as she used to. We still exchange some shells and probably will work our inlet here a little toward the end of this month when the weather is warmer. Several of our collector friends are here for the month and are anxious to get out in the water but my wifes activities will be confined to beach shelling.

Have a letter in the morning mail from a chap named Brown, in St. Petersburg, who wants to buy Colonial and Continental Currency. He says he has collected for years but I have never heard of him before. Howard Gibbs gave him my name.

Guests are arriving so must close. We certainly are having a busy season this year but so far, we are holding up well under the pressure. Five nites a week however can be taken only so long. Thanks for the look at your article and thanks for the note. Always nice to hear from you. Regards.

Sincerely yours,



March 15, 1956

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

Your letter arrived before I mailed my letter to you. I have taken, in accordance with your instructions, the \$80 January 17, 1779 note No. 24400, signature, Gamble & Snowden. It is exactly the same as No. 32050 but not as nice because it has writing on the back, etc.

Your thoughts on a book of Colonial paper money are of tremendous interest to me. A great deal could be accomplished by going over all of the Colonial laws authorizing the paper money and setting forth the names of the signers, etc. It is a tremendous undertaking and it is one in which you could participate very substantially. I am going to think it over and discuss the matter with Kenneth Scott.

I would be interested in knowing what blue sheets you have in your collection. Would you be kind enough to make a list of them? I also would like to know whether you have a blue specimen of the \$20 note of May 10, 1775 or the \$30 note of that issue.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

March 16, 1956

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I am returning all of the Continental bills you sent me and, again, I wish to thank you for the opportunity of studying them. It was a real treat to see your fine specimens and to appreciate all the work that went in to your collecting them. I am also enclosing a few odds and ends in pictures of counterfeits which I had taken. These prints are rather second rate and I had better ones prepared. Most of them are your specimens and some are mine. My only hope is that they will use a substantial number of the illustrations in the article to be published. I will, of course, send you sufficient special copies of it as I will have reprints made for individual use.

I am taking my wife and children to Arizona for a few days as the children have vacation from school and we all need a little rest. I certainly wish we would decide to go to Florida again as nothing would give me more pleasure than taking time out to chat with you about our mutual interests.

Thank you, again, for the loan of the enclosed material.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

CERTIFIED MAIL

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

April 7, 1956.

Dear Eric:

The parcel of notes received in good order as well as the photographs. Thanks and I am glad that I could be of some help.

Now regarding the blue sheets. I have the following:

sheet of eight(8), Feb. 17, 1776
" " " " Sept. 26, 1778
several single or strips of notes of various
issues but none of the \$20 or \$30 May 10, 1775.

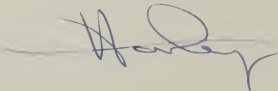
I also have in uncut but signed and dated sheets the following:

sheet of sixteen (16) , May 9, 1776
" " eight (8) , Nov. 29, 1775
" " " " , Apr. 11, 1778

I have seen or know to exist blue sheets of all of the issues but am not too sure having seen the \$20 and \$30 you ask about. Jake Spiro had several of them and of course, those would now be in The American Antiquarian Society collection. It seems to me that you had a number of them and I suppose Fred Boyd has some. That is about the end of my string.

Hope you enjoyed your Arizona vacation and got that much needed rest. Will look forward to seeing your article when published and with warm regards, I am,

Cordially yours,



HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Sept. 3, 1956.

Dear Eric:

Nice hearing from you again and your visit to East Africa sounds exciting. Let me hear more about it. I have had some dealings with a couple of shell dealers in Zanzibar and they are fast workers. I imagine that they are Arabs but have no way of knowing. You certainly are covering out of the way places on this old earth.

Appreciate your remembering my interest in old Florida maps. Just happens that I have the one you saw in London. I have never given this subject too much study but have found that many of these old maps have been used by different Geographers or whatever one calls them, simply by re-engraving new material on old plates. Some of these days I will have to look further into this subject but right now between numismatics and shells I manage to keep too busy to do much else.

Numismatically I have not been too successful of late. Pick up a note here and there but nothing outstanding. Have been in correspondence with Fred Boyd and we have been checking each other on early issues of Colonial Currency. Of course, he does have the outstanding collections of this type of stuff. Believe I mentioned that Dr. Joe Fields and myself are working up an article on the "Signers", which will appear in Manuscripts. Joe is doing the hard work using some of my material and data. Which reminds me, how are you coming on your study on counterfeits? Will be looking forward to seeing it.

Guess that's about it for now. Today ends the season down here, at least till the first of the year and the town now reverts back to the natives. We like it that way but for anyone in business, things must drag a lot. Of course, most of the motels and courts start refurbishing and getting ready for the winter season and few can complain this year. Both seasons were much better than average, even with all of the new units that have gone up and they continue to build and build. Guess they figure that half of the country will eventually come to Florida.

Do write when you find the time and with kind regards and thanks, I am,

Sincerely,



December 12, 1956

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I want to send you Holiday Greetings and a little information in which you might be interested.

In the book entitled Early Rehoboth, by Richard LeBaron Bowen, there is a chapter devoted to counterfeiting of Rhode Island and Massachusetts notes between 1716 and 1723 by Mary Peck Butterworth. I believe you have one or two of these bills. They are thoroughly illustrated in the book.

The section on counterfeiting was also published, in 1946, in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. It is in the Reference Department of a local library and thus I cannot send it to you but you may be able to get it in some other manner.

Very kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

1/20/55
1/20/56
2/4/57
\$1 4/19/62
back 3/1/87

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Jan. 13, 1957.

Dear Eric:

Nice hearing from you again and thanks for the information on counterfeiting in Rhode Island. I believe that Bowen covered the subject pretty well in his ;

"Rhode Island Colonial Money and it's

Counterfeiting, 1647-1726"

which was published some years back or does this article you mentioned contain new or additional material? Unfortunately, such a book would not be available in any of our local libraries.

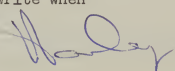
Liked your article in the Franklin Number, in fact, liked the entire issue. Just returned from the meeting of Florida United Numismatists, which was held in Orlando, Fla., last week end. Had a good turnout and I imagine that your ears must have burned for in conversations with Art Kelly, Dick Kenny, Jim Kelly and a few others, your name was mentioned several times. Also in a letter from Fred Marchhoff in the mornings mail. Some day I do hope to see that fabulous collection of paper money which you are supposed to own.

Am back on Colonial paper again for a bit. Fred Boyd sent me his Georgia material to check borders and I am having a wonderful time. Have found only one new one to date but am not thru yet. It was too bad about Wayte Raymond but guess we all have to go sometime. By the way, did I ever ask if you had any appreciable number of Bank of North America material? I have been working on that particular bank and have acquired quite a few of the notes. Just trying to make a record of the different issues.

Picked up a nice sheet of 2, County of St. Louis:-\$5.00-\$10.00, unsigned but dated 184-, and printed in red brown ink. Saw another \$1.00-\$2.00, but could not talk the chap out of it but he did have two of this sheet. Printed by Durand, Hammond & Mason, Cincinnati. First I have ever seen. Also picked up a few nice Florida notes and a few others of interest.

Guess that's about covers things. Write when you have the time and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Dec. 29, 1955.

Dear Eric:

Am glad you liked my counterfeit Continentals. I too think there are some interesting ones among them. Now do this for me. Hold the notes until I write you. Mrs. Freeman and myself are leaving the first of next week for a trip north and may gone two or three weeks. I am having most of my mail forwarded to me but do not care to have any registered or insured parcels double mailed so please just keep them in your safe till I let you know.

Thanks for the information regarding the holders. I also had a letter from Brown assuring me that his envelopes were absolutely safe to use.

Regards and best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harley", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

February 18, 1957

Mr. Marley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Marley:

I cannot let your letter of January 18, 1957 go unanswered any longer. I was waiting for the reprints of my article "Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes to War" so that I could send you one but that will just have to come in due course. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for cooperating so promptly with respect to information for that article. You will note your name in the acknowledgment.

As to the Bank of North America, I presume you are familiar with my article in the Franklin Issue. The item illustrated there is part of a sheet of little notes of 1789 three notes having been cut off the sheet of sixteen.

I have a check dated July 17, 1787, drawn on the bank, a 5¢ note of January 20, 1815, a 10¢ note of January 15, 1816, a 25¢ note of January 10, 1815 and a \$1 note dated April 17, 1862. I would be very interested in knowing which ones you have and if you have any duplicates, please let me know.

Don't worry too much about the County of St. Louis notes. They are all reprints which were made 15 years ago, more or less, some in green, some in brown, some in black.

It would be my sincere pleasure to show you my paper money collection whenever you are in St. Louis. You are one who would really appreciate this material. All you have to do is to give me a few hours notice and you can stay at our house and pore over it to your heart's content.

Believe it or not, I have four more articles in process and continue research on a number of additional subjects. I just am going on a writing spree from the information I have been gathering for years. The one I am writing for the A.N.S. Centennial publication is the proof that the Vermont copper coinage contains the British emblem in the shield and the head of George III because they used the same hubs which were being used at Machins Mills to make counterfeit halfpence. This will be a shock to the patriots of dear old Vermont.

Mr. Warley B. Freeman

February 18, 1957

It is always nice to hear from you and if I took winter vacations, I would be on your doorstep.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. RICHMAN

KFW/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

March 3, 1957.

Dear Eric:

Nice yo hear from you again and I did enjoy both your article "Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes to War" and your article on Franklin. That rather prompted my question regarding your Bank of North America material. I have always wondered how many of the fractional notes of 1789 were printed to a sheet and have tried to obtain as many different plate letters as I could get my hands on. Somehow never could locate more than the letter "A" on the 3/90th dollar but do have seven of the 1/90th.

As for the rest of my Bank of North America collection I believe I have a rather nice collection. Start off with a \$10.00 note of Mar. 20, 1784, signed by Thomas Willing. Then have 6 of the 1789 issue and a partial sheet of 3. Several different types of checks of 1795-1797-1800-1807-1814 and 1 early one undated.

Jump then to the \$5.00-10.00-20.00 issue of 1812-1814, probably printed and engraved by Peter Faverick, tho they are not signed. Have also a \$5.00 counterfeit of this issue.

Next come the fractional notes of Jan. 1815, 2-5¢ and 1-50¢, different days of the month are shown. Then Jan. 15, 1816:- 5¢-2 of the 10¢ and 1-50¢.

Have a photostat of a \$3.00 note of Apr. 8, 1826, by Fairmount, Draper and Underwood.

Next a couple of the \$5.00 notes of 1818-1828 with different signatures, all printed by Murray, Draper, Fairman & Co. Different dates but all the same style.

A \$50.00 proof with only 18-- , by C. Toppan & Co.

\$5.00 of Sept. 10, 1838, stamped "Counterfeit"

\$10.00 of March 10, 1855 Underwood, Bald, Spencer & Huffy.

\$100.00-\$50.00-\$20.00-\$10.00 proofs of 18-- , Toppan, Carpenter & Co.

\$10.00-\$5.00 proofs of 18-- , Toppan, Carpenter & Co. and also American Bank Note Co, and a signed \$5.00 of the same issue dated Feb. 1, 1860.

2-\$5.00 notes of Sept. 1, 1854, again by Toppan, Carpenter Casilear & Co. One is from the Georgetown D.C. branch and one from Philadelphia.

Re-constructed

~~One~~ sheet of 4 of the \$1.00 is Jan. --, 1862, letters A*B*C-D.

Next are several blank checks of later periods.

Then I come down to the National Banking period. I have the \$5.00 and 10.00 of the first charterperiod in uncirculated condition. \$5.00-10.00-20.00 of the second charter brown back type and the \$5.00 of the third period, both red and blue seal. Would like very much to add one of the small style notes of they were issued for this bank before the bank holiday but have never been able to find out for certain. That "r. Newman is my Bank of North America collection but I am always interested in adding to it.

The above collection together with my Florida collection and a small group of notes from any state printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, with the protrait of Tecumseh, as shown on the common Michigan notes of that bank are my three major interests at the moment. I have twelve or more different notes showing that same Indian, several with different names than Tecumseh.

Thanks for the information on the County of St. Louis notes. I had hoped for a while that I really had something but acquired it in a trade so did not get too involved. I showed it to Art Kelly and told him that I had you in mind if it was something worth while and he did not seem to know the notes.

Now, can I bother you for a bit of information. I have recently been working on the 1776 and 1777 issues of Georgia and with the help of Fred Boyd's collection and my various photostats and data have worked out pretty well the plating of these issues except for two. Do you have any of the first issue of 1776, the issue being part of Twelve Thousand Five Hundred etc., which may have extra wide border margins or have part of a note overlapping another note so that I might determine the position of the note on the plate? If you have any like that I would like very much to examine them or have photostats of them in full normal size. The same goes for the fractional denomination notes of Sept. 10, 1777 except I would like to see any and all that you may have of that issue. Will return them promptly if you care to allow me to examine them.

Guess that's all for now. Some day I do hope to get to St. Louis and see part of your collection but heaven only knows when. Mrs. Freeman just does not like to take long drives and she will not fly so we go very little of late. In fact, shelling is almost a thing of the past except for our exchanges. Will be watching for your four other articles in process and hope you get started on many more for I think you are doing a remarkable job. In fact, I wish you would take on the entire Colonial Paper series and bring it up to date. Fred Boyd says he is getting too old and I am getting too lazy so someone shall have to do it. Hooper does not seem to have the time. John Ford would be a good bet or Dick Kenny but both seem to be pretty busy so why not you?

Regards and thanks for your nice letter and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "H. B. ...", written over a horizontal line.

March 12, 1957

Mr. Harley Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

Your very interesting letter concerning the Bank of North America items in your collection is at hand.

I was very much complimented by your suggesting that I participate in doing the work on Colonial currency and the next time I see Fred Boyd I will discuss it with him.

I just heard from the editor of the Numismatist that Dick Kenney had died of a heart attack and I was very much shocked by it. He was a careful student and a very pleasant person.

As much as John Ford would like to do research work, he has to earn a living and also works on too many different projects at once. Perhaps his work requires that and as a result he cannot complete the different subjects which interest him.

As you requested, I am enclosing six of my set of the 1776 Georgia issue and six of the September 10, 1777 issue. Perhaps the margin on one or two of these items may be helpful to you in determining position. Please return them at your convenience.

We have a Central States Coin Convention coming up here in St. Louis the latter part of April. I have never been to a convention in my life other than the original Central States Convention, 18 years ago. It will be amusing for me to see the dealers try to swindle each other and form morals associations so as to pass on one another's disreputable morals. I am going to have a little exhibit and make a speech and do a lot of other silly things but I would feel badly not participating for the better of numismatics as a whole.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EPH/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

April 7, 1957.

Dear Eric:

I have probably held your Georgia notes longer than I should but you said there was no rush and down here we have been rushed. Feb. and March is the "season", down-a-this-way and as usual, half of the frozen north have visited Florida sometime during those two months. We of course, have had our share. In fact, at times it seems like more than our share but things are tapering off and I imagine that we will live. I don't care to see a canape or snack for a month. It will be a welcome change to eat left overs for a few evenings, rather than roast beef or chicken and Steve, (Mrs. F.), more than I can stand a few full nites sleep. So far we have only two engagements lined up for this week so maybe the Freeman household will get back to normal.

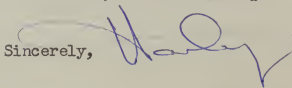
Thanks a lot for the look at your notes. Unfortunately, they give me no information that I did not already have. Wish I had something to offer you in exchange for the 2 fractional notes of Sept. 10, 1777. I don't have either of them but knew that they existed as Fred Boyd has copies and had loaned them to me. My duplicates of Georgie are just non existant as I swapped them with Jake Spiro several years back. Understand that Boyd got Raymond's colonials and he had some nice ones. I have added little of late except for a sheet of 12 Virginias of the 1780 issue. A double sheet, recently offered at auction. Also a few obsoletes but nice material in this line is getting pretty scarce. For that matter, what numismatic material can one name that don't seem to be pretty scarce. With all the investors and dealer-collectors who are trying to pick up a dollar here and there, everything has jumped out of sight. With just a slight depression I believe that a devil of a lot of twentieth century minor coins would appear on the market or even in circulation, that are now commanding rather high prices.

Hope you enjoy the Central States Coin Convention. Your comments on the dealers agrees with my sentiments and yet, I always enjoy attending a convention for a few days. One gets to see old friends and once in a while something worth while or a sleeper can be picked up. Your tastes, like mine, run to the odd and unusual and what most collectors pass by without a second glance, might just appeal to us. Or, do you go for U.S. modern and gold? That seems to be the play of the dealers who work the convention circuit and it's just that. A certain group of them all belong and support these state organizations and encourage these get-togethers so that they can show their wares. God, I must sound like a pessemistic old man. Well, I do hope you enjoy yourself and pick up some nice stuff. If you come across any nice western obsolete notes that you don't want, I'll take them off your hands.

Thanks again for the notes. Write when you have the time and I am now going to take myself a little nap and rest up for the evening

Warm regards.

Sincerely,



October 19, 1959

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

For quite a while we have been out of correspondence and, frankly, I miss hearing from you.

I have just learned that you have written something recently and I wanted to know where it is published. Perhaps you are also about to publish other items and I want to know about those too. In any event, cut me in on the state of the facts.

I have been doing a great deal of research and writing and am preparing to give a lecture on American coins at A.N.S. in November.

I have finally run down the source of the information on the devices on the Continental currency and am enclosing a photostat from the September 20, 1775 Pennsylvania Gazette. This article was copied into the Pennsylvania Magazine, then into an almanac, then into Force's Archives and then into Phillips. I was very pleased to find its original source.

I am still collecting vigorously and hope you are and, of course, if you ever consider selling any of the Colonial paper I, naturally, would be interested.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Oct. 28, 1959.

Dear Eric:

I am really sorry that you have not received a copy of the article in which Joe Fields and myself collaborated but I was quite sure that you belonged to the Manuscript Society and would receive your copy of Manuscripts some time ago. A copy is now in the mail and should reach you shortly.

Just received a letter from Vernon Brown in which he suggests several errors in dates but have not had time to re-check. If there are errors it could be myself in giving dates to Joe, in Joe's manuscript of the article altho I had a copy to check or maybe in the printing but hope to recheck and correct any errors that we have made. I got up most of the material and Dr. Feilds worked up the article. Hope you like it.

As for you, I think you are doing a wonderful job on your various projects and do hope you keep up the good work. I also wish to thank you for the photostatic copy of the Pennsylvania Gazette and will look forward to your article on the subject if you will advise me in which publication it will be.

Had a long letter from Fred Harckhoff a short time back and he continues to rave at great length about your marvelous collection of obsolete currency and also the colonial tho I did not think you were going into that field too strongly. If so I would have checked with you as to the extent of your collection and included your name along with the listings we did make in Manuscripts.

Also heard from Dick Picker and understand that you acquired some of his material. He sent me several thousand notes to look over and I did find a few of interest but just can not bring myself to paying some of the prices they now ask. \$20 for old rags of N.J. and Penn. just is too much for my blood. If they are really bringing such prices I am sorely tempted to dispose of my entire collection of Colonial and Continental for I am quite sure I am never going to finish the article I have threatened to write for the past twenty years.

Nice hearing from you again and hope you like our joint efforts. Write when in the mood and the best to you.

Sincerely, 

November 4, 1959

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

You have no idea how much I enjoyed your letter and your article.

I am not the slightest bit insulted that you left me out of the list of collectors of paper money. At least I see I am very much in the competition but since my interest is heavily in the historical end I can enjoy my Colonial paper money from several points of view.

If you ever consider selling your collection please give me the opportunity to buy it. Dick Packer's prices, in my opinion, are worse than ridiculous. He bought all of Chapman's left-overs for \$1.00 each and I went over them, just as you did. If he can find a few suckers to buy these items, greater power to him.

Do you happen to have a duplicate of the monograph by Elisha Potter on Rhode Island issues? I have written for a copy of the check list to the Virginia Historical Society as I remember Dr. Wellford showed me his collection many years ago. I have seen the collection at Essex Institute and it is excellent.

You might be interested in knowing that my work on Continental Currency is being republished in England by the British Numismatic Society under the title "The Successful British Counterfeiting of American Paper Money During the American Revolution".

If you are not going to finish the article you threatened to write, how about turning the project over to me. Some day I really hope to produce a humdinger on Colonial paper money.

Again, many thanks for sending me your article and for the nice letter.

Cordially yours,

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Nov. 15, 1959.

Mr. Eric Newman
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Since my last letter several errors have been called to my attention in that article in Manuscripts, mostly in dates but it's too late now to correct them. It has been suggested that we reprint it in the Numismatist and if we do will be sure to make the necessary corrections. I don't have the copy of the manuscript and neither does Dr. Fields so it's hard to say who made the mistakes, we or the printer.

You mentioned the fine collection the the Essex Institute. Joe wrote them asking for a list or tab on their material and they listed just 10 notes but I knew that somewhere they had some fine material for many notes are illustrated in A. McF. Davis.

Now regarding Potter. I don't have a duplicate but do have a copy of his original pamphlet published in 1837, quite rare and also Vol. No. 8 of the Rhode Island Historical Tracts which goes more into detail on the Bills of Credit of R.I. 1710-1786. This is by Ryder and Potter. You are welcome to the use of either or both of these for as long as you need them. Then Richard LeBaron Bowen did a nice job of Rhode Island Colonial Money and its Counterfeiting, 1647-1727, published in 1942 and of which I have a copy. In fact, may have a duplicate of that but would have to do some digging to locate it.

A few years back I suggested that you get busy and work up an article on the Colonial and Continental series but could not seem to get you interested. I'll go along with you and give you all the information that I possibly can if you will get at it. And, at some later date I might even consider selling my collection to you. While I have not lost interest there is so little worthwhile material offered and the prices have gone so blame high that I just don't pay much attention to catalogues any more and few dealers are coming up with worthwhile stuff. A good book on this subject would raise the prices to the sky, just as Freidberg did with his U.S. Currency.

Got a football game coming up so must close. Let me know about the Rider-Potter books and the best to you.

Sincerely,



November 25, 1959

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

You were very nice to help me on my library and I can have photostats taken of pamphlets I cannot obtain for the present. Therefore, would you be kind enough to send me the pamphlet by Potter and also Vol. 8 of the Rhode Island Historical Tract.

Several years ago I wrote Mr. Bowen, who did work on the early counterfeiting in Rhode Island, but he is a very old gentleman and indicated he did not have time to check up on any matters for me. If you do have a duplicate of his book that would be very helpful to me.

I fully realize how much you wanted me to get busy on a substantial article on early-American paper money but I did not wish to convey the impression I was not interested. I merely had so many research projects in the works that I did not have time to tackle another one even though I was most interested. At least I did produce "Continental Currency Goes to War" which acquainted me with much of the background of the Continental series. While I have been digging on coinage matters I have put down any information with respect to paper money in my notes and separated it into the various states. A good job would require reviewing all of the laws of the period and a great many of the microfilms of newspapers. Unfortunately, the Virginia Gazette seems to be the only newspaper with a good index.

My desire would be to put out a fine study of this paper money without the thought that it would raise prices but with the thought that it would make that period of paper money much more interesting to collectors and students. I realize how big the project is but it is something which is really worthwhile.

November 25, 1959

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Mr. Harley L. Freeman

You might be interested in knowing that Picker told me he didn't sell any of the paper money he advertised at such ridiculous prices but that he had a lot of correspondence on other matters.

I picked up a counterfeit \$6 Maryland note of 1770 and was very pleased as this was the first Maryland counterfeit I had ever seen.

I am very pleased, too, that you would consider selling me your collection of Colonial paper money and realize how much enjoyment you have received from it. Whenever you get interested in disposing of it I will look forward to hearing from you.

The reason I have delayed in writing to you is because I was in New York giving the lecture at A.N.S. and, naturally, lots of inquiries and discussions came up which had to be straightened out first with some of the enthusiasts who were present.

My very best to you.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HARLEY L. FREEMAN
353 SOUTH ATLANTIC AVENUE
ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA

Dec. 7, 1959

Dear Eric:

Enjoyed your last letter very much. I too had some correspondence with Mr. Bowen several years back when I purchased a copy of his book. He told me then there were only a few left so I bought two extra copies. Have since sold one of them and am quite sure the other is down in the garage with several hundred books, catalogues, magazines and various papers but right now it's too darn cold to dig into that mess so am sending along my own copy of Bowen together with the Potter pamphlet and Vol. 8 of the Rhode Island Historical Tracts. Keep them as long as you need them but I do want all of these back. I will try to locate the other copy of Bowen when the weather milder a bit. Yes, we do get some cold weather in Florida. This morning it must be around 40.

Your ideas on a book or article on the subject of the Colonila and Continental Paper Money go even deeper than my own. When I got the idea of working up a book I planned to include all known and authorized issues showing the amount of issue, the amount redeemed or destroyed where known, the denominations authorized or known to have been issued and the amount of each, the name of the printer and any other pertinent data. Then as a check I contacted most all of the museums and historical societies and also the large private collectors to learn just which of the early notes they might own. In most cases I obtained photostatic copies of their early notes which I still have. Massachusetts Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut with their over dating have never been covered completely altho A. McF. Davis did a fine job in some of his works. Finally I made a complete list of authorized and also known signers of the notes as I could compile. A local printer in Cleveland was quite enthused on the subject and we even dug up an ex-forgery with the idea of reproducing the signatures as near as possible in the book for many of them could not be photoed to advantage from existing specimens. Well, all those wonderful plans never got any further than that.

I can still remember a conversation I had with Henry Chapman in his office in Philadelphia, way back many years ago. He of course had THE collection and also the stock and he was the last one I approached on the subject. Mrs. Freeman and myself were on the way to the convention being held in New York that year but stopped off in Philly for a few days on our way there. I called on Chapman bringing my various records and asked to look over his collection and make a few notes. We of course had corresponded for some years and I had purchased some things from him. He dragged out his number 1 collection and said that I was welcome to look thru it but, and shaking his finger in my face he remarked, "You can't make a note, You can't make a note". "I am going to write the book on this subject". I was so damn mad that I was tempted to walk out but I did examine his collection. Well, Henry is long dead and never wrote that book and I, who promised myself that I would write it in spite of Henry am no further along than he was. In fact, my notes probably would have to be considerably brought up to date with information that has come to light since I first gathered my material. Your idea of looking thru newspaper files is good but would take time and more time.

Your Maryland counterfeit sound interesting. I don't believe I have ever seen one on that colony. (You will have to excuse many of the errors in this letter but I am trying to get used to a new Smith-Corona electric type-writer and it's much too fast and sensative for my clumsy fingers) Also, it don;t spell worth a damn and some of the characters are located differently than on my old Royal. Speaking of counterfeits I have quite a few as you know. I also have some very interesting full and partial sheets and for the past few years have been trying to re-construct the sheets of the various 1776 and 1777 issues of Georgia. Fred Boyd had been sending me notes from his collection to study, just before he passed away. I gave Raymond the idea of the 1st, 2nd etc. issues which he lists in his catalogue and I have managed to complete the plating of several of those issues.

Still keep my interest in obsolete paper and get a few worthwhile pieces from time to time. Westerns are tough but I did pick up a Kansas and Montana this past week. Florida, at least notes that I don't have are harder still and some of these days I hope to do an article on that subject. That seems nearer reality than the article on Colonial. Criswell wants me to turn that over to him for one of his publications but just don't like the idea.

One article nearer reality than any of the others is about a Spanish proclamation piece which I have that I have definitely established as having been struck for St. Augustine. Have the Spanish documents being copied now at the Library of Congress and a party in Ann Arbor who located them for me has also given me the translation. This is a piece of 1789 of Charles III, not the Charles III pieces which I got thru you but we also hope to find documentary proof that they too are from St. Augustine and Mrs. Tanner is working on that.

Well, what started out as a short note has developed into a lengthy letter but it's nice talking to you and I always enjoy your letters. Any time you come across obsoletes that you don't want I do wish you would keep me in mind. Fred Marchhoff says that your collection in that line is fabulous and some day I would hope to see it. I think it would be a wonderful idea if all of the currency collectors, especially those whose specialize in one or two particular states, would all pool their knowledge and information and bring out a worthwhile listing of not only the bank notes but also the city, county and private scrip. Most every state has it's devotee and with several very large collections in institutions to check plus the material in private hands, Wismer and Muscalus could be brought up to date, somewhat along the lines of Bowen's work on Michigan and what Fred Marchhoff is doing on some of his western states.

I better quit while I can. Will get the books in the mail today or tomorrow at the latest. Write when you have the time and the best to you.

Sincerely



December 17, 1959

Mr. Harley L. Freeman
353 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear Harley:

I appreciate your very nice letter and the background of your work on early paper money. Your experience with Henry Chapman is not surprising as the more I research various subjects the more unreliable I find his written and oral statements to be, yet he probably did more to stimulate an interest in numismatics than most of the other dealers. He put romance into collecting even if he had no facts to support his stories.

Some day I would like very much to see the pictures and the data which you have assembled on early currency if you have no present plans to write it up. I could photostat your data so that it would be in my file and, naturally, I will not use it without clearing with you first and giving you personal credit.

I would very much like to obtain from you your extra copy of Bowen's book on Rhode Island currency and could even trade you an exciting book recently put out by the American Bank Note Company on its history if you do not have it. As far as the other books, catalogues, magazines, etc. which are in your garage, I can only say that I am trying to develop my library for further research and if you want to dispose of things you have I am a willing customer to the extent of anything I do not have.

Congratulations on tying down the Proclamation pieces to St. Augustine.

I will write you further after I have read your books and will return them promptly after the holidays.

Let me know if you find a second copy of the Bowen book and if so we can save it a ride.

Believe it or not, I am now working on the 1804 dollar and have enough evidence to really bury that coin forever. I can

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December 17, 1959

Mr. Harley L. Freeman

now prove that not only were the coins struck after 1840 but that the dies were also made after 1840 as well as the dies for the 1801, 1802 and 1803 proof dollars. I have a few more fakes to polish off but am still searching for further proof. My Good Samaritan exposure has made me Bad Man No. 1. I have three or four other research projects ready to be written up so you can see I have my hands full.

If you ever get to St. Louis, or if I get to Florida, we ought to have a lot of fun together.

Thank you, again, for your cooperation and kindness and may you have a Holiday Season warm in weather as well as warm in heart.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb